SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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No 209

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

The legal validity of the June 13, 1973 Communiqué and US responsibility

THOUGH less than one month old, the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué has been subject to thousands of violations. Breaches of the Joint Communiqué or of the Paris Agreement? Any confusion in this respect can only serve the interests of US imperialism, an impenitent wrecker of international agreements — the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina, the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos and the January 27, 1973 Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

It matters therefore to determine the legal validity and connection between the Joint Communiqué, the Paris Accord and the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam, thereby establishing US responsibility for violations and acts of sabotage that have been and continue to be committed.

The Paris Agreement on Viet Nam is an international instrument aimed at ending the war and restoring peace on the basis of the recognition and achievement of the fundamental right of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese. The United States who had refused to sign the 1954 Geneva Agreements, signed twice in the same day in Paris the quadripartite text and the bipartite text (which so to speak, confirms the former text and gives its name to the agreement on Viet Nam). The Act of the Paris Conference dated March 2, 1973 has provided the formal recognition and solemn guarantee of the Paris Accord of twelve governments, including the US government.

The Joint Communiqué went through the same proceedings as the Paris Agreement: strenuous and tough discussions between the main negotiators — Mr Le Duc Tho and Dr Henry Kissinger — after which a draft communiqué was initialed; signing of the Communiqué by the four parties, then signing of an instrument with the same content by the DRVN and the USA. The bipartite text, so to speak, confirmed and guaranteed the quadripartite one.

The Joint Communiqué therefore is not a "shallow *facsimile*" of the Paris Agreement as described by *the Economist* (June 23 to 29, 1973) but a new formal accord confirming and enhancing its juridical value.

In point of fact, all the fourteen Articles of the Joint Communiqué refer to the main provisions of the Paris Agreement and deal with urgent measures for their strict and thorough implementation.

Those urgent measures are precisely required by the grave situation arising from US-Thieu infringement of the main provisions of the Paris Agreement, especially those concerning the cease-fire, return of captured Vietnamese personnel, ensurance of democratic freedoms of the people, achievement of national reconciliation and concord in the zone under Saigon.

Their gist can be found in the PRG six-point proposal at the La Celle Saint Cloud Two-Party Consultative Conference. Their realization is not left to the discretion party but tied to an imperative schedule.

A new schedule has been in effect fixed for the implementation of the fundamental provisions of the Paris Accord as follows:

Urgent measures	Date of realization	References
— Signing of the Joint Communiqué	June 13, 1973	
— Cessation of reconnaissance flights over North Viet Nam		Art. 1, Communiqué Art. 2, Agreement
— Implementation of the Paris Agreement's provision on Laos and Cambodia		Art. 13, Communiqué
— Cease-fire throughout South Viet Nam	04h GMT or 11h Saigon time June 15, 73	Art. 20, Agreement Art. 3, Communiqué
— The armed forces of the two parties remain at their positions and observe the five "don'ts"	— idem —	Art. 4, Communiqué
— JMC maps out zones under each side's control and troop-stationing modalities	— idem —	Art. 2 and 3, Protocol on Cease-fire
— Meeting of local unit Commanders of the two sides	June 16, 1973	Art. 6, Communiqué
— JMC discusses modalities for the replacement of arms and ammunition	— idem —	Art. 7(c), Communiqué
— Resumption of the meetings of the DRVN-US JEC	June 17, 1973	Art. 14, Communiqué
— Resumption of demining operations by the USA	June 18, 1973	Art. 2(a), Communiqué
— Visit of detention places by national Red Cross societies	June 14 to 28, 1973	Art. 8(c), Communiqué
— Fixing of three more entry points by the JMC for the replacement of arms and ammunition by each side	June 16 to 30, 1973	Art. 7(c), Communiqué
— Locating by the JMC of the HQs of regional JMC and Joint Military Teams	— idem —	Art. 11 (b), Communiqué
— Return of captured military personnel and captured foreign civilians still held in detention	June 13 to July 13, 1973	Art. 8 (a), Communiqué Art. 8 (a), Agreement
— Stationing of regional JMC and Joint Military Teams with full membership	June 30 to July 15, 1973	Art. 11 (c), Communiqué
— Total return of Vietnamese civilian personnel in detention	June 13 to July 28, 1973	Art. 8 (b), Communiqué Art. 8 (c), Communiqué Art. 7, Protocol on Captured Personnel
— Signing of an accord on South Vietnamese internal problems	— idem —	Art. 10 (b), Communiqué

Of course, if the afore-mentioned schedule is strictly carried out, progress of a decisive nature can be achieved through a thorough implementation of the January 27, 1973 Agreement.

In spite of its modest appellation, the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué can be viewed as an accord of a great practical importance, and a new victory for the Vietnamese people in their struggle for the honouring of the commitments taken in Paris.

TO be fair to the USA, one should admit that it has complied with certain provisions of the Joint Communiqué relating to the cessation of reconnaissance flights over the DRVN, demining of the DRVN waters and resumption of the Joint Economic Conference according to schedule whereas the Saigon regime has proved to be active only in committing fresh violations and acts of sabotage. Are there any differences of views between the American party becoming "wiser" and its Saigon confederates persisting in their dishonest behaviour? US officials said quite the contrary when they affirmed that Washington was not bound to stop its bombings in Cambodia, that it was contemplating new air strikes in Indochina and dit not rule out the prospect of fresh bombings in North Viet Nam. The US policy of intimidation and use of force to back neo-colonialist manoeuvres in South Viet Nam and Indochina remains unchanged. Thieu's flagrant contraventions of his solemn pledges are obviously shored up, even dictated by the requirements of US neo-colonialism.

One is thus confronted with a shocking breach of international law committed directly and by proxy by a big power that has signed solemn instruments *not once but five times* in four months and a half. That is a veritable challenge to human conscience, and to American conscience for which international treaties duly signed are part of the supreme law of the land.

Mr Nixon and his aids entertain dangerous illusions over their capability to defy law and right. The whirlwind of the Watergate affair has shown the tremendous strength of public opinion which can shake and destroy all the political and moral credit of an American President if it is not yet in a position to overthrow him.

In Viet Nam and in Indochina, US imperialism has lost and no dark design nor adventurous action on the part of Mr Nixon can turn back the wheel of history.

Together with the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace and its Protocols, and the Act of the International Conference, the June 13 Joint Communiqué form a legal whole binding the American administration definitively and irresistibly. The Vietnamese people, supported by the world and American peoples are entitled to expect a scrupulous and thorough implementation of those instruments of international law. Any new procrastination, any new sabotage attempt of the Americans and their Saigon agents will only aggravate US political and legal responsibility and exacerbate the indignation of lawyers and peoples the world over.

LET'S SAVE THEIR DESTINIES

The South Viet Nam Committee of Struggle for the Freedom of Patriotic and Peace-Loving People still Detained by Saigon administration issued on July 24, 1973 the following communiqué:

SINCE the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, in spite of the continual denunciation by public opinion at home and abroad, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration has still refused to return all military personnel and obstinately delayed the return of all civilian personnel it is detaining. Moreover, it has applied a harsh policy of maltreatment, bloody repression and terror and secret elimination of political prisoners while continuing to arrest and put to jail tens of thousands of persons whose only crime is to desire peace, independence, democracy, national reconciliation and national concord.

In the past six months, the US and the Saigon regime have employed many extremely brutal and perfidious methods against the detainees:

1. Through cunning moves and deceitful allegations, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration has eluded the return of political prisoners under its detention

While broad public opinion at home and abroad is vehemently denouncing it for detaining and barbarously torturing hundreds of thousands of patriotic and peace-loving people in South Viet Nam, the Nguyen Van Thieu clique have done its utmost to deceive public opinion in an attempt to cover up its crimes and refuse the return of political prisoners to the RSVN PRG.

Since the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the Saigon administration have not ceased to clamour that there are no political prisoners in South Viet Nam. Under public pressure, in his trip to Rome, Thieu declared that in South Viet Nam, "there are only 21,000 civilian prisoners and 5,081 political prisoners." On July 12, 1973, the Foreign Ministry of the Thieu administration issued a communiqué reaffirming that in South Viet Nam there are no political prisoners and heaped abuses on all those who had revealed the truth about the number of political prisoners being detained. These included US Congressmen, international organizations and honest journalists in the world.

But the fact is that only a few prisons like Thu Duc, Chi Hoa, Tan Hiep already keep from 20,000 to 28,000 prisoners. According to figures published by the Saigon regime itself in February 1973, only at the Poulo Condor prison 10,000 political prisoners were detained. This does not include thousands of local prisons with a very great number of prisoners.

On the one hand the Nguyen Van Thieu administration declared that there are "no political prisoners," and on the other, it put out the fantastic figure of 59,000 persons detained by the PRG. On June 15, 1973, Pham Quoc Thuan, chief of the military delegation of the Saigon administration at the Two-Party Joint Military Commission swelled it to 94,202 persons comprising 27,202 militarymen and 67,000 civilians with the obvious aim of blocking the discussion on the return of political prisoners.

The Saigon administration declared to "set free" prisoners, while in fact it transferred them to their places.

On January 16, 1973, over 400 political prisoners detained in Nha Trang were summoned to the prison directorate to sign to "release" certificates. Later, these persons were deported to Poulo Condor island.

On July 1st, 1973, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration transferred 80 prisoners from Poulo Condor to Kontum prison and declared that they were not included in the list of those to be returned.

With such perfidious contentions, the Thieu administration has laid bare its obstinate intention not to return the political prisoners as stipulated by the Paris Agreement and the June 13 Joint Communiqué, grossly violating international law and insolently challenging the conscience of progressive mankind.

2. Intensification of repression and terror in prisons, secret transfer of prisoners with a view to murdering them

Over 200,000 patriotic and peace-loving persons are being kept in more than 1,000 prisons in South Viet Nam. They have been detained for many years and tortured most inhumanely. A large number of them have been incapacitated and exhausted by the Thieu harsh prison regime.

Only three days after the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, thousands of prisoners in Poulo Condor receive harsher treatment than ever in the "tiger cages" and "cow sheds". At Camp 4, 700 women detainees were beaten unconscious then forced to put their finger prints on ready-made applications of "ralliement to the national (Thieu) cause". At Camp 8, after beating 600 prisoners at wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8, the prison authorities spread facces there and shut them up for 4 days.

From April 28 to May 5, 1973, Nguyen Van Ve, the boss in the Poulo Condor island prison, directly commanded a field police battalion, together with secret agents in an atrocious raid in the various camps. At Camp 6 alone, section B, the thugs hurled over 300 tear grenades into wards 1, 2, 3, 4 causing many inmates to faint, then broke in and beat them savagely.

Within a few days, they killed 14 persons including Pham Van Cac, Ho Chi Tang, Loi, Chi, Le Thi Lan, Nguyen Thi Thanh and Tran Thi Huong and seriously wounded more than 480 others.

After each drive of torture and terror, scores and even hundreds more of persons were thrown into "solitary cells," "tiger cages" and "cow-sheds" at Camps 2 and 7.

Failing to bend the will of the patriots and peace-loving people by means of terror, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration has taken many prisoners to unknown destinations to facilitate their secret elimination.

In execution of the watchword "firm but discreet," Thieu's agents have since the Paris Agreement brought to unknown places tens of thousands of prisoners. 18,000 detainees in the Western Nam Bo been prisons had taken to unknown places of detention.

At Tan Hiep prison alone, 2,400 persons were victime of such deportations. At Poulo Condor prison, thousands of detainees among them 800 of Camp 8 have been taken away.

On January 28, 1973, the director of Tan Hiep prison threatened to kill all those who opposed the regime. This threat was not long to materialize. Between March and May 1973, over 20 persons were killed then thrown into the Saigon river. On the night of April 15, 1973, 25 political prisoners were killed on the bank of Ben Keo river, Long Yen hamlet, Long Thanh village, Tay Ninh province.

All Vietnamese and all men of conscience in the world are concerned about the fate of hundreds of prisoners who are detained in unknown places in South Viet Nam, and about the atrocious methods adopted by the Nguyen Van Thieu administration to eliminate political prisoners.

3. With a series of fascist decree-laws, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration has been massively terrorizing and arresting people in the areas under its control

As a result, the number of persons detained for political reasons, far from decreasing, has increased day by day.

Even after the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam took effect, Nguyen Van Thieu threatened to "shoot on sight" anyone suspected of being a "communist." Since March 1973, the Thieu clique have intensified the "pacification program" during which they "purged" and arrested people en masse. They openly declared that "ceasefire does not mean a stop to arrests."

From January 28 to July 15, 1973, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration carried out nearly 46,000 police operations in the areas under its control, "purged" 1,535,000 persons and arrested more than 200,000 others.

In Binh Dinh province, only from January 28 to May 28, 1973, the Thieu administration arrested 5,512 people.

Also in this period, in Thu Dau Mot, more than 300 people were arrested and tortured in the province jails.

In the Mekong delta, within only three days ending July 6, 1973, 647 police operations were conducted and 14,359 people were "purged".

On July 15, 1973 alone, the Thieu administration carried out 395 police operations and "purged" 45,962 people in the areas around Saigon.

Within only ten days after the entry into force of the Joint Communiqué (from June 15 to 25, 1973) the Nguyen Van Thieu regime launched nearly 2,000 police operations, "purged" more than 60,000 people and arrested hundreds of others.

It is clear that the Nguyen Van Thieu administration has throttled even the minimum democratic liberties of the people, wantonly terrorized and arrested the patriotic and peace-loving people, causing the prisons and detention camps to be overcrowded.

With these extremely inhumane acts, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration has revealed their wicked design to eliminate the patriots and all opposition forces in South Viet Nam in order to maintain US neo-colonialism there, in serious violation of Articles 8 (c) and 11 of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, Articles 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8 of the Protocol and Articles 8 (a), 8 (b) and 9 of the June 13 Joint Communiqué.

While the RSVN PRG, prompted by the spirit of national reconciliation and concord, has scrupulously implemented the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the Joint Communiqué on the return of civilian and military personnel, the Saigon administration has up to now obstinately opposed the urgent demand of the Vietnamese people.

In view of its responsibility toward the fate of tens of thousands of its countrymen being detained in the barbarous prisons of the Nguyen Van Thieu administration, the "South Viet Nam Committee of Struggle for the Freedom of Patriotic and Peace-Loving People still Detained by the Saigon administration" vehemently denounces and condemns these criminal schemes and acts to public opinion at home and abroad.

We firmly demand that the US and the Saigon administration scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, stop forthwith their criminal acts against the patriots and peace-loving people being detained, promptly return all the remaining civilian and military personnel to the PRG side as is stipulated by the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué."

A tremendous source of joy for the heroic land

GIO HAI was graced with the visit of Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho. It lies on the northern bank of Cua Viet, opposite the military base and the port. With its many fishing boats moored close to each other in the shade of green weeping willows on the white sandbanks, Gio Hai, a village of fishermen, offers a picturesque landscape. Its beauty is enhanced by the deep blue waters of the sea and the broad expanse of the sky, the quiet flow of the river and flights of white swallows. It was marred in the past by four military posts built in the village and the omnipresence of three-strip yellow flags, which added to the desolation and gloominess of the scenery. No craft on the river, no sails at sea, no white swallows in the sky, no weeping willows left standing. There remained only sandbanks and three-striped flags. The 7,000 inhabitants of Gio Hai were crowded into a compound not exceeding half a square kilometre in area, surrounded by barbed wire entanglements and watchtowers. It was turned into a prison inside a big prison.

Now Gio Hai has recovered its picturesqueness. Its land, still pitted with bomb-craters, is green with the budding rice, sweet potatoes, maize and cassava roots. The concentration camp has been blotted out; its 7,000 inmates have returned to the various hamlets in the village. Flags, the red-blue yellow-star flags, so dear to the heart of the villagers are waving over Gio Hai, the flags which bring life and joy to everyone. New fishing boats have been launched, nets are cast at sea. Life has returned to normal there for over four months now.

That day, all Gio Hai was agog with the news of the visit of Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho. It was a great honour for the village, a heroic unit, known for having given birth to over 300 valiant fighters who had wiped out 1,000 enemy troops and destroyed 200 armoured vehicles and 35 navalcraft, and for having been awarded about 50 medals and over 400 certificates of merit in the long resistance to US aggression.

THE convoy of motor boats landed Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, Vice-President Nguyen Doa, Mme Nguyen Dinh Chi, member of the Advisory Council and them PRG delegation. I noticed among the crowd rushing out to greet than a white bearded old man running down bank at full speed and helping Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho wade on to the bank. From time to time he looked back at the leader who was waving acknowledgement to the cheers of the crowd.

After shaking hands with the inhabitants, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho entered the meeting room and talked jovially to the gathering. The old man was the first to answer. "That seventy-year-old man" a rural cadre whispered to me "is Nguyen Van Chuan, an experienced fisherman who had spent a dozen years in an enemy concentration camp."

"I am very happy to meet you, Mr Chairman." Old Chuan looked up and humming and hawing. "I only saw your photos. This is the first time in my life, I really enjoy freedom and this, thanks to the NFL and PRG. We are very happy of our freedom, Mr Chairman..."

Old Chuan wanted to speak more but he sat down with a lump in his throat. Tears were trickling down his wrinkled cheeks.

His emotion was understandable. Nobody forgot the condition of the 7,000 people who had roughed it within the barbed wire entanglements of a camp linked with the outer world by only two gates through which every one going or out was carefully searched. The operation lasted from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. In the afternoon, the inhabitants had to return to camp before 3 o'clock or else they would be fined. This wretched existence was shared by all those who went to sea, to market or sailed up and down the Hieu and Hien rivers, let alone other vexations such as meeting river patrols or passing by check-points and posts, or coming across enemy tanks and armoured vehicles which rattled all day and all night.

Old Chuan had lost six of his children during those hard times, but never had he wept. Now he burst into tears out of the joy of meeting a leader whom he had never dreamt of meeting.

"They are too busy with State affairs to come and see us," he used to confide to friends "We can count ourselves happy to meet Liberation fighters here." The event came as a surprise to him and puzzled him as if it were a dream. He was astonished by the simplicity and informality of the chairman, and the latter's friendliness with the people only increased his emotion.

Old Chuan remembered the day when he was kept waiting in the sun by a "pacification" agent who had summoned him to his office for questioning. After three hours, the old man ventured to look for him but was brutally dismissed after receiving a sound beating and being called names by the ruffian, though Old Chuan was older than his own father.

Recollecting the arrogance of the thug, Old Chuan said :

"Our Chairman has the makings of a leader. His language is similar to ours. I felt for him great affection when I saw him knee-deep wading in the water. In the past, a personage of his rank would have had us carry him on our backs or in a palankeen."

Looking at Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho chatting with the inhabitants, Phan Thi Ngot, a 74-year-old woman, stood up and said :

"For the past few years, I have been constantly sick. To see me in such a condition, the enemy asked me : 'What is the matter with you ?' I said 'I'm sick because you often come here.' After the restoration of peace, I've put on some weight. I'm so happy you were able to come, Mr Chairman. Ours is truly a government of the people..."

Then another much younger woman Tran Thi Lanh told that her husband was fighting in the Liberation army while she was doing her housekeeping and carrying out three-spearhead action against the enemy. She had been five times cited "valiant fighter."

A rural cadre told the Chairman of the achievements recorded by his village, particularly in production and self-sufficiency to relieve the state burden...

Everyone wanted to speak to the Chairman who took a great interest in everything. He inquired about the health of the old-agers present, the education of the youth, the first haul of sea fish caught in peace time, guerilla training, the situation of the local pagodas, churches, Buddhists and Catholics...

During an interview with delegates of the nationalities living in the two districts of Huong Hoa, north and south, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho asked Huong, a Van Kieu girl :

"Have you got an adequate supply of goods here ?"

"Yes, Uncle. They are distributed by trading agencies in sufficient quantities."

"Do the inhabitants receive enough medicines ?"

"Yes, they do. And with great gratification."

"Is education available to grown-ups and children alike ?"

"Do tigers frequently come here ?"

"Have your milpas yielded heavy crops ?"

"Has the cultivation of tea and pepper been restored ?"

"Is there enough water for irrigation ?"

"Has the district any plan to boost production ?"

"Have our highlanders any other difficulties ?"

Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho was very pleased to hear detailed reports of delegates from the two districts about the farming, education and training carried out by the Huong Hoa population. He congratulated Cam Lo district on the great efforts made in the medical field since the reestablishment of peace. Thanks to these activities, no death from disease has been recorded. He recommended the cadres to pay attention to the war victims and to zealously tackle with the social evils left by the enemy; to care for war invalids, martyrs' families and orphans. He then gave them gifts for the war invalids and orphans, and also for the family of martyr Tran Thi Tam, a heroine native of Quang Tri province.

Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho's deep concern about everything in the locality prompted Huong to say : "Our Chairman knows very well what has been happening in our village, what the Van Kieu nationality want, what the Paco minority think of; he is concerned with our grain of salt, our cassava roots, our patches of land, our stream and river and even the tigers which frequently attack our pigs... Maybe he is just one of ours !"

(To be continued)

THIEN LY

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Gio Hai inhabitants and cadres warmly welcome Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho at the bank

More foreign ambassadors present credentials to President NGUYEN HUU THO

THE Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of eight more countries to the Republic of South Viet Nam on July 24 and 25 presented their credentials to Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and President of the Advisory Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

They were: Astrit Mero of the People's Republic of Albania, Nikolay Tchernev of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Sandaguine Sosorbaram of the People's Republic of Mongolia, Petre Tanasie of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Ladislav Jetma of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, Sien An of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Kamara Aboubakar of the Republic of Guinea, and Guindo Assane of the Republic of Mali.

The presentation took place at grand ceremonies held in an area under the control of the PRG.

The ceremonies were attended on the South Viet Nam side by Foreign Minister Mme Nguyen Thi Binh and Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Hoang Bich Son.

The Ambassadors arrived in the said areas on July 23 and 24 and were cordially received shortly afterward by Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh.

Also on July 25, Milorad Bozinovic, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the RSVN, presented his letter of credence to Foreign Minister Mme Nguyen Thi Binh. He arrived in the RSVN on July 24 and was cordially received shortly afterward by Le Trung Nam, Acting Protocol of the Foreign Ministry.

Mongolia's free economic aid to RSVN

AN agreement on Mongolia's emergency free economic aid for 1973 to the Republic of South Viet Nam was signed on July 24, 1973 in an area controlled by the RSVN PRG.

Hoang Bich Son, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Sandaguine Sosorbaram, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Mongolia to the RSVN, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

Present on the RSVN side were Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nguyen Nhu, head of the 2nd Department of the Foreign Ministry; and Pham Hong Son, representative of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

On the side of Mongolia was Gongoryn Bars, Third Secretary of the Mongolian Embassy.

The signing ceremony took place in an atmosphere of militant solidarity and fraternal friendship.

RSVN-Bulgaria cultural co-operation

AN agreement on cultural co-operation between the Republic of South Viet Nam and the People's Republic of Bulgaria for 1973-1974 was signed on July 24 in an area controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

Hoang Bich Son, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Nikolay Tchernev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the Republic of South Viet Nam, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

Present at the signing ceremony were Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister of the RSVN, and others.

The signing ceremony took place in an atmosphere of militant solidarity and fraternal friendship.

in our liberated zone

+ The last span of Dien Binh brigde, which crosses the Darsi River in Dien Binh village, was put in place on July 20 in the midst of the spate season. The bridge, on Highway 14 and some 20 miles northwest of Kontum town, is another achievement in the construction of the liberated zone.

+ The meteorological station in Quang Tri province was commissioned on July 19. Equipped to record the least changes in weather and keep track of far off atmospheric disturbances, the station will be a great help to the people in production.

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In fifteen months in Western Nam Bo over 450,000 people were inoculated against diseases. Besides 41,000 patients were treated with acupuncture and medicinal herbs, and 8,300 expectant mothers were given regular attention. In the same period, 104 kinds of drugs were turned out in 2.5 million pills, 440,000 packages, 502,000 phials, and about 10,000 litres. In addition, vast areas were cleared for the planting of the most useful, most common medicinal herbs.

Local health services have been set up in 41 of the 48 districts in the region so far in conjunction with the establishment of welfare and veterans' organizations.

In Cu Chi district, Gia Dinh, Ben Luc district, Long An, and in various areas of My Tho and Tra Vinh provinces, the people have reclaimed or rehabilitated some 7,500 hectare of land. They have also planted tens of thousands of fruit trees and restored over 2,000 war-destroyed orchards.

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Dozens more of general-education schools had been opened in the provinces of Quang Tri, Binh Dinh, Binh Phuoc, Vinh Long and Ben Tre by the end of June, and there will be over 20,000 more primary and elementary students for the coming school-year.

In the central provinces alone, three more middle-level agricultural schools and nine others at the elementary level are ready to function.

Grand Commemorative Meeting

A solemn meeting was held in Dong Ha town, Quang Tri province, on the evening of July 25 to mark the 20th anniversary of the Cuban Armed Uprising, with the participation of about 500 representatives of public organs and mass organizations in the province, and Mr. Hoang Bich Son, ex-RSVN Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba.

The main speaker, Mr Le Xich, Chairman of the Provincial People's Revolutionary Committee, said the attack on Moncada heralded the outbreak of the Cuban Revolution and also the upsurge of the revolution in the Western Hemisphere. Ever since the Cuban Revolution has never ceased developing as the beacon for all other Latin American countries, he stressed.

He expressed the gratitude of the people of South Viet Nam for Cuba's wholehearted support and assistance, and also their resolve to strengthen the liberated zone in all respects while making the United States and the Saigon administration to implement the Paris Agreement scrupulously.

PRG's Statement on the implementation of June 13 Joint Communiqué

Follows the text of the statement issued on July 30 by the Foreign Ministry of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on the implementation of the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué:

"WITH its consistant stand, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has done its level best for the respect and thorough implementation of the provisions of the Agreement and of the Joint Communiqué.

On the battle front, the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces have strictly observed the ceasefire order.

At the Consultative Conference between the two South Vietnamese parties (in Paris-*Ed*) and at the South Vietnamese Two-Party Joint Military Commission (in Saigon-*Ed*), the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has taken the initiative of making judicious and totally constructive proposals aimed at ensuring the enforcement of a thorough and stable ceasefire, the total return of captured and detained civilian personnel, the materialisation of the democratic liberties of the people and the creation of favourable conditions for a quick settlement of the other internal affairs of South Viet Nam in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord. Those fair and reasonable proposals have been warmly welcomed by broad public opinion at home and abroad.

On the contrary, the Saigon administration has left no stone unturned to distort the content and significance of the Joint Communiqué right after its signing, and revealed from the very beginning its wicked design to sabotage the implementation of the Joint Communiqué.

The Saigon administration has refused to implement all the provisions concerning the ceasefire. It has not disseminated the ceasefire order, refused to bring about direct contacts between the opposing military commanders in the field to find measures to avoid armed conflicts. It has refused to determine the areas controlled by each of the two South Vietnamese parties, and has been plotting to deny the actual and all-round authority of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the liberated zone. In the meantime, from the entry into force of the Joint Communiqué to July 27, 1973, according to still incomplete figures, the Saigon administration violated the ceasefire more than 42,000 times, continuously carried out over 3,700 land-grabbing operations, more than 3,900 artillery attacks and more than 1,600 reconnaissance and bombing flights in an attempt to nibble at and annex the liberated areas, causing serious losses in lives and property to the people. Especially serious is that at present, the Saigon administration is still carrying on days-long division-sized operations in Kontum, Chuong Thien and Binh Long, Phuoc Long, creating an extremely tense situation in these areas.

REGARDING the return of captured and detained Vietnamese civilian personnel, the Saigon administration, confronted with the staunch struggle of the Vietnamese people and strong condemnation by the world's progressive opinion, has reluctantly undertaken to organize the return of these civilian personnel with a view to easing public opinion. But in reality, it has returned only a very small number of the hundreds of thousands of patriots, peace-loving people and other persons standing for national concord whom it is detaining and maltreating in thousands of prisons and detention camps throughout South Viet Nam. To elude this return, the Saigon administration has resorted to many wicked manoeuvres such as compelling the prisoners to "rally" to it, changing the dossiers of political prisoners into those of common law offenders, taking to unknown destination or secretly eliminating many of the prisoners.

Nguyen Van Thieu has arrogantly declared that there is no political prisoners in South Viet Nam. Regarding the captured and detained persons belonging to the third force, the Saigon administration has ascribed them to the Provisional Revolutionary Government, with the aim of eliminating the role of the third force in the political life of South Viet Nam, and refusing to return them to their organization and families in accordance with their aspirations. Besides, the Saigon administration has been increasing its round-ups, arresting and detaining hundreds of thousands of other people. The Vietnamese people and progressive public opinion in the world are extremely indignant at these criminal acts of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique. The problem of the return of the civilian personnel has become extremely serious and urgent and needs a timely and immediate settlement to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of patriots and other peace-loving people who are facing their slow death in the Thieu prisons.

As the boss who has rigged up the stooge administration and provided money, weapons and advisers for it to maintain the machine of repression and the system of prisons in South Viet Nam, the United States can by no means disclaim its responsibility for, and its commitment toward, the return of the civilian personnel captured and detained by the Saigon administration.

The Saigon administration has been trying to speed up its very atrocious "special pacification" program in violation of Article 11 of the Paris Agreement and Article 9 of the Joint Communiqué. Since the Joint Communiqué took effect, in the areas under its control, it has conducted more than 30,000 police operations, purged, arrested and herded into concentration camps, causing a very strained situation there. No democratic freedom has been ensured, even the most rudimentary ones such as freedom of movement, freedom of residence, freedom for the people to return to their former place of residence to earn their living, have been annulled. Nguyen Van Thieu has forged many new fascist decree-laws to increase the coercion and terrorization of the people and taken many brazen moves to plunder the people and sell off the natural resources of the country in service of the United States' scheme to carry out the "Nixon doctrine" in this region. Running counter to the urgent aspirations of the South Vietnamese people, the Saigon administration has turned down the fair and reasonable proposal of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam concerning the "fundamental stipulations ensuring the democratic liberties of the South Vietnamese people," proposal that has been warmly welcome by broad public opinion at home and abroad.

ALSO at the Consultative Conference between the two South Vietnamese parties, to deceive public opinion, they put forth the so-called "time-table", "main principles"... as if they has "goodwill" and wished for an early settlement of South Viet Nam's internal affairs. But in essence, they stick to their demand for the "withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops", a senseless demand of the US which was already ruled out in the process of negotiations on the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. That demand is aimed at eluding the settlement of the most urgent problems relating to South Viet Nam's internal affairs.

The Paris Agreement and the Joint Communiqué recognize both in law and in practice the existence of the third force in South Viet Nam. The RSVN PRG has always held the view that the third force must have its voice and play an independent role in the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord which comprises three equal segments. But the Saigon administration still stubbornly denies the third force, and even cracks down on it, thus seriously violating both the spirit and letter of the Paris Agreement and the Joint Communiqué.

Because of that obdurate attitude of the Saigon administration, though over 45 days have gone by since the signing of the Joint Communiqué, the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord has not been formed yet, and the agreement on the internal affairs of South Viet Nam has not been signed.

It is common knowledge that the Saigon administration is a product and an instrument of US neo-colonialism. The above-mentioned serious acts of Saigon administration are but part of a premeditated plan of which the US is the main instigator and manipulator. Together with the recent arrival in South Viet Nam of General Frederick C. Weyand, former commander of US forces in South Viet Nam, to directly increase the military collusion among the satellites and henchmen of the US in this region, the above-mentioned schemes and acts of US further prove that the US has refused to end its military involvement and intervention in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam, and has seriously violated Article 4 of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

MEANWHILE, in North Viet Nam, having complete its mine-clearing operations in the main channels of the DRVN's territorial waters, the US has not yet fulfilled its responsibility as stipulated by the Joint Communiqué. The US has not totally ended its reconnaissance flights over North Viet Nam. It continues causing difficulties to the work of the DRVN-US Joint Economic Commission and has not discharged its obligation under Article 21 of the Paris Agreement.

In Laos, the US, through the rightist party continues hampering the settlement of internal political issues, as required by the Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos.

In Cambodiain spite of protests by the Cambodian people, by progressive public opinion in the world, and even by the American people and the US Congress, the US government has brazenly intensified its war of aggression against that nation, and has conducted extermination bombings of Cambodia's liberated areas, thus causing an extremely serious situation in this region.

The RSVN PRG severely condemns and energetically denounces the US and the Saigon administration for their above-mentioned acts against the Paris Agreement and the June 13, 1973, Joint Communiqué.

The RSVN PRG firmly demands that the US government completely and thoroughly cease its military involvement and intervention in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam, scrupulously and fully perform its obligations as a signatory of the Paris Agreement and the Joint Communiqué. We firmly demand that the Saigon administration respect the ceasefire, stop without delay its nibbling operations and withdraw its troops to the positions prior to January 28, 1973. It must abolish the harsh prison regime, return immediately and completely the captured and detained civilian personnel, end all police operations, all terrorist acts, and the forcible relocation of the population, cancel all its fascist laws and regulations, and guarantee the democratic freedoms of the people, first and foremost, the freedom of movement and of earning their living, the freedom to return to their native places.

The Saigon administration must consult seriously with the RSVN PRG for a rapid settlement of these urgent issues, with a view to quickly forming the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord, and signing an agreement on the internal affairs of South Viet Nam, proceeding to the general elections, and achieving the South Vietnamese people's effective right of self-determination.

FOR its part, the RSVN PRG always respects and scrupulously implements all the provisions of the Paris Agreement and the Joint Communiqué. But if the US and the Saigon administration continue violating the Agreement and the Joint Communiqué, then they must bear full responsibility for all the consequences of their acts. If the Saigon administration stubbornly continues using violence to encroach upon the liberated areas, terrorize and massacre the population, the South Vietnamese people and their liberation armed forces will resolutely give it tit for tat."

The statement concluded:

"Through six months of implementation of the Paris Agreement and 45 days of application of the Joint Communiqué, the strength of the PRG's just line of peace, independence, democracy and national concord has daily developed its effect. Our position is being strengthened, and our right is enormous. We have the firm political and legal basis of the Paris Agreement, the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam and the Joint Communiqué. The whole progressive mankind stands on our side. Meanwhile, because of their obdurate and war-seeking nature, their violations of the Agreement and their sabotage of peace, the US and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration have been more and more isolated. They are meeting with difficulties in many respects. That is why, in spite of their deliberate violations of the Agreement and the Joint Communiqué, they certainly cannot shirk their responsibility for implementing both the Agreement and Joint Communiqué.

Let our entire people and army in SVN, upholding their indomitable and valiant tradition, strengthen solidarity, keep high vigilance, overcome all difficulties and hardships, and together with the compatriots throughout the country and shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Lao and Cambodian peoples, persist in and step up their struggle to smash every scheme and act of the US and the Saigon administration that violates the Agreement and Joint Communiqué, advance steadily to achieve their glorious cause of building a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic and prosperous South Viet Nam and proceeding to the peaceful reunification of the Homeland.

The people and the PRG of the RSVN call on the governments and the peoples of the socialist countries, the non-aligned countries, the other peace- and justice-loving countries, international democratic organizations, and the world's peoples, including the progressive people in the United States, to give strong support to the South Vietnamese people's just cause, struggle resolutely to demand that the US government and the Saigon administration scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué, guarantee durable peace in Viet Nam, and contribute to the maintenance of peace in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

The South Vietnamese people's just cause will win!"

Thang Long Fiery Dragon *marking its contribution to the historic aerial Dien Bien Phu victory*

the heroic Viet Nam missile force!

IN their grim confrontation with US aggression, the Vietnamese people worked wonders. Many of these were wrought by the Viet Nam Missile Force.

During eight gruelling years it has grown up: it fought the enemy in all situations — at night and in daytime, on all grounds, in all weather — and frustrated all the enemy attacks, to earn its name of "heroic missile force."

Its achievements topped the list of victories won by our people in the defence the air space of the country. This battle was a contest between the courage and intelligence of our missile men on the one hand and the most up-to-date war means of the American aggressors, on the other.

From the first big gain won on July 24, 1965 to the end of the war, the missile force downed 800 aircraft of various types of the US strategic and tactical air commands, including 50 B.52s, wiped out or captured hundreds of American airmen; remarkably in the last 12 days of December 1972, it brought down 37 American aircraft including 32 B.52's, making a great contribution to the foiling of the US imperialists' great strategic air strike against North Viet Nam, and their attempt to gain a "position of strength" in negotiations.

In this success, revolutionary heroism was upheld by such famous units as Song Da Brigade, Battalion 61, Battalion 64 and Battalion 73 which set high standards of revolutionary aggressiveness, close combat coordination, collective heroism, skilful combat tactics. At this juncture, the missile men do not cease raising their combat efficiency and fighting spirit and together with other anti-aircraft forces, are doing their best to preserve the sky of the Fatherland, thereby contributing to the defence of peace, socialist construction in the North, our present revolutionary struggle and eventual national reunification.

The South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces warmly hail the Vietnamese Missile Force which over the pest eight years deserved well of the Fatherland.

Rubber in Vinh Linh

IN the height of summer, when the hot wind blows from the west, it is just the time to tap latex.

I had the occasion of visiting the *Quyet Thang* rubber plantation in Vinh Linh, the standard bearer of North Viet Nam State farms. Formerly, it was a virgin land bordering on a high-tree-forest cleared here and there by nomadic people and crisscrossed with jungle trails blazed by the Van Kieu nationality and lumber-jacks. This land has now been turned into a vast rubber, tea and pepper plantation and crossed by many motor roads.

I was guided by Tran Khac Nhu, deputy-manager in charge of technology and Nguyen Cong Danh, an organizational cadre, during my visit to the farm and some production brigades.

"The farm was set up in July 1958 by demobbed soldiers who put up the first shanties, and laid down the preliminary foundations for our enterprise," said my guide who pointed to me a herd of one thousand oxen grazing in the field nearby.

I was then taken to the plantation of Brigade 3, a pilot unit credited with having the greatest number of rubber trees tapped.

Already at 4 o'clock in the morning, laughter and voices were ringing in the brigade, marking the beginning of a working day. Le Thi Phong Canh, head of a female team, and her mates walked merrily to thier working site, bringing with them the necessary outfit: latex containers, rags to clean bowls, tapping knives and small baskets to collect latex clinging to the trees.

Phong Canh was a 24 years old good-looking girl, known all over the farm for her zeal. Before 1968, when she had been a pepper grower, she had collected 120 pounds of seeds in a day or 1.5 times the target set, and occasionally 270 pounds, the highest record in the farm.

Now she can tap 700 rubber trees per day, a figure never reached by any fellow worker.

I then took leave of Brigade 3 and Brigade 7 and crossed the weeded rubber-tree plots to visit a tappers' training course held in the full moon in a hut built near the plantation.

I was thinking over and again of this newly imported crop: when did rubber tree come to Viet Nam? When was it planted at Vinh Linh? Perhaps it was grown in the world in the nineties and found its way to Southeast Asia where it was grown in Malasia, Indonesia, Thailand, Srilanka, India, Viet Nam...

In our country, it was grown by the French first at Thu Dau Mot (East Nam Bo) in 1897, then at Nha Trang in 1898 and at Vinh Linh and Phu Quy in 1925. But in the two latter localities, the yield was rather poor and one came to the conclusion that they were not its habitat. However, after the Geneva Agreements, it has been cultivated in many regions in North Viet Nam with very good results.

The following day, I went to the site of Brigade 8 formerly struck many times by American aircraft, perhaps because of the presence of processing workshops. Now all these installations have resumed their activities: after a chemical preparation, the coagulated latex is cut to pieces, weighed, sundried on poles before being sent to an oven. The crepe rubber so obtained is of a light brown colour with a lozenged surface; it is then sent to Hanoi for further processing.

In the air and naval war waged twice against North Viet Nam, the Americans hit hard at the west of Vinh Linh and Quyet Thang agricultural farm. But they received strong counterblows: in 1972, 15 F.4s were downed by Quyet Thang self-defence unit. Standing in the frontline of the battle, its farm-hands were always combat ready while devoting body and soul to production. The farm witnessed many send-offs for its youths going to the front.

Now that peace has been restored, new era has begun for Quyet Thang: it ill step up the production of rubber necessary for socialist construction in the North.

TRANG KHANH

in brief ★ in brief ★ in brief ★ in brief

o 250 Asian scholars of the United States have issued a statement saying: Over 200,000 political prisoners are still held in the Saigon regime's jails. According to Article 8 of the Agreement, the release of prisoners ought to have been completed on April 27, 1973. However, the Saigon administration has not only refused to free them but also put in prison more people since the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam came into effect... It has arbitrarily turned political prisoners into common law prisoners not to free them. It has continued its systematic torture, and inhuman treatment including confinement in tiger cages and even liquidation of inmates. All these horrors contravene the Geneva Convention of 1949 on Civilians' Rights in war-time, the 1948 Declaration on Human Rights and the Nuremberg Statute.

In his letter to his constituency in California, US Senator Alan Cranston said: Saigon's failure to release political prisoners constitutes a flagrant violation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. The change of thousands of political prisoners into common law prisoners by the Thieu administration is a breach of the political settlement negotiated by H. Kissinger himself.

The Senator called on the American people and his fellow legislators to bring pressure to bear on Thieu to discharge his obligation toward the men he is detaining.

o Earlier, on July 10 and 17, *the Office de Radio diffusion et Télévision Française* (ORTF) featured parts 1 and 3 of the documentary film named *The Land*, shot by French cameraman Gerard Guillaume in Viet Nam in April last year. It describes the courageous effort of the Vietnamese since the foundation of the country, against natural calamities as well as foreign aggression, and their building of a unified fatherland.

o The Peace Council, the Peace Movement for Solidarity with Viet Nam, trade unions, youth and student organisations in Argentina held a meeting in Buenos Ayres on June 15 to set up the Argentine Friendship Association in Support of Viet Nam Reconstruction. Its aim was to "support the Vietnamese people in both zones in their struggle for the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement by US imperialism and the Saigon administration, and in their national reconstruction.

o On June 21, the Committees of coordination of Belgium, the United States, Canada, France, Italy, and Japan, participating in the International Conference for the Release of Political Prisoners in South Viet Nam, issued a communiqué reading: "It is particularly important to make known as widely as possible to the world filmed and written documents giving proof of the tortures against the detainees and other crimes that are beyond imagination."

"Without the release of political prisoners, there can be neither democratic liberties, nor national reconciliation nor self-determination in South Viet Nam," the document stressed.

On Saigon's Oil extraction contract

ACCORDING to foreign sources the bidding for the right to tap petroleum in South Viet Nam ended on July 10. The operation had been started a week earlier by the Saigon administration at the Ministry of Economy.

As a result, 8 of the 13 applying companies, representative of large Western oil concerns were accorded exploitation rights on the condition that they pay 2 million dollars in advance for each plot (there are 30 plots in all) off South Viet Nam's coast. Under law 001/70 enacted by Saigon on Dec. 1, 1970, any exploiting company should share with it 12 per cent of the proceeds from the sale of oil in return for concession rights plus 55% of the profits earned as income tax.

Owing to the Thieu admininstration's efforts to conceal what is actually going on, on details are available at present on the bidding. Yet, known data allow the following preliminary observations.

First, as pointed out in the Feb. 24, 1971 declaration of the PRG Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Saigon administration does not legally qualify to sign with any foreign country any accord affecting national interests or resources. All the more so since the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam which stipulates that each of the two existing administrations in South Viet Nam enjoys but the *provisional* right to manage its affairs in the zone under its control until the holding of truly free and democratic elections in order to form a new, definitive government. Therefore, any arrangement between the Thieu administration and foreign companies is nul and void, so the people and the future regular government of South Viet Nam will not be bound by it. This legal aspect of the question should be unequivocally made clear.

Second, clearly enough, this move of the Saigon administration shows an utter disregard for national interests; it is a mere sell-out. Since over the past several years important oil reserves have been known to exist on the fringe of the continent, a great many firms of foreign monopoly capital have been after this "black gold." They are none other than those which have made fat profits from the plundering of resources of Mideast and Latin American countries. Their names are known to all: Esso, Shell, Mobil oil company, Texaco, Gulf, Standard of California, Union and Compagnie française de petroles, etc.

They have long been coveting South Vietnamese oil for various reasons, one of the most obvious ones being the fact that highly-developed countries of the West will find themselves in the throes of an energy crisis, especcially an oil crisis, in the forthcoming years. Another reason is the politically unstable situation in Latin America and the Near and Middle east where the oil-producing countries, in closer solidarity and with stronger resolve, are struggling to redover their sovereign rights and a higher price for unrefined petroleum. Such a state of things has made South Vietnamese oil more attractive than ever. "Viet Nam's long-awaited rush has begun," the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. "An historic meeting between the Saigon government and representatives of 24 oil companies in early May," the journal added, "has opened bidding on some of the most potentially lucrative continental shells yet untouched by oilmen's drilling bits."

Another aspect of the problem should be stressed. Since the end of World War II, all of non-communist Southeast Asia has been a site for an investment race between US, West European and Japanese monopoly capitals. Their penetration into the economy of the under-developed countries in the area has reached such a point that it cannot be significantly stepped up. In some countries, this penetration has provoked the reaction of their peoples and governments. Due to the war situation, however, in South Viet Nam abundant resources have not been tapped.

In this "black gold" rush in South Viet Nam one problem has made foreign capitalists ponder more than once: the fate of the Thieu regime. The same *Far Eastern Economic Review* says that the political stability of the Saigon administration will be largely dependent on foreign bidders. Rumour has it that when a Western bidder told the Foreign Minister of his country that his company would take part in the bidding for oil concession rights in South Viet Nam, the Minister said: "You're crazy."

There is every reason to assume that the Thieu administration is perfectly aware of that. That is why they have made most basic concessions in the transaction, such as the 12,5 per cent rent and 55 per cent income tax. It was no accident either that last July 11, Thieu's paper *Dan Chu* hurriedly published the success of the 16 million dollars paid in advance by 8 companies for the right to exploit the 8 off-shore plots. US adviser Walter J. Levy author of the oil bill has not wasted his time!

What induced the Thieu administration to so carelessly dispose of the country's wealth? The question should be answered in the context of Thieu's "post-war economic program." As has been made clear by Saigon opinion, the said program aims at tiding over a gravest economic crisis that is endangering the very survival of the Saigon regime as a result of the American troop withdrawal and the eventual reduction of American aid by a hostile US Congress. A 1970 report of the Asian Development Bank on South Viet Nam's post-war economic problems has pointed out that Saigon's sole hope for a two-faceted resolution of the skyrocketing defence budget and the volume of import several dozen times larger than the volume of export lies in the development of export industries using the country's resources such as the exploitation and production of oil if the current surveying work proves to be accurate.

It is therefore most obvious that the Thieu administration is selling valuable national wealth at a dirt-cheap price to save a regime condemned by the people and history.

LE MINH

★ ★ ★

Here and There

NIXON'S RECORD

According to the *US News and World Report* of June 25, 1973, Mr Nixon has just broken a new record in cabinet reshuffling.

The old one was Ulysses Grant's with 26 changes within two tenures from 1869 to 1877. Came next Franklin D. Roosevelt and D. Eisenhower with respectively 25 and 20 shifts during their presidencies from 1933 to 1945 and from 1953 to 1961.

In a little more than 4 years, Nixon has made 28 changes including 20 in his first term. Beginning his second tenure in January 1973, due to "Watergate", he soon caught up with Grant to outdo him in May 1973 with the transferts of E. Richardson to the Department of Justice and of J. Schlesinger to the Defense.

The moves have been vividly dubbed by the public the "waltz of the armchairs," which does seem to end soon, despite US difficulties at present.

Dick man in Phnom Penh is the holder of another sort of record: his troops are the youngest in the world. Manikins, not taller than their rifles, as Western correspondents have described them long since, 4,500 of whom the "Phnom Penh mayor" has just recruited in the latest drive for the defence of the deleaguered capital. Pictures in newspapers show them overburdened with their paraphernalia: helmets coming down to their noses, boots up to their knees, M. 16 or AK trop heavy for their skeletal arms. Thirteen years, twelve years old kids who should have been protected against the dangers of the war instead of being entrusted with the defence of a totering regime on the same footing as foreign mercenaries from Thailand or even from Israel (*UPI*, July 5, 1973), while US B. 52's and F. 111's are dropping tens of thousands of tons of bombs to no avail.

Maybe his Brain Trusts of fortune-tellers have recommended him to do such insanities no man in his right mind can conceive.

POLITICAL ILLNESS

Intensified US air strikes in Cambodia are certainly to Lon Nol liking but not less certainly not to the American people's: Congress is hostile to such an escalation, as every one is aware. Four sisters who had been fasting since June 25 when Nixon vetoed the bill banning the raids broke into the White House and said prayers in protest.

24 hours later, four other people including the Reverend James La Cross followed suit and the next days still others. Naturally, the dissenters (20 in number up to July 12) have been apprehended on charge of "illegal entry into a public service." When Nixon arrived in Kansas on July 9 for the installation of Kelly, the new FBI chief, many hundred people, most of them youths demonstrated with anti-bombing slogans and clamours for Nixon's clarifications on Watergate.

The Senate Commission investigating the scandal warned him on July 7 that fallure to hand over to it files on the affairs still in the hands of the White House would make clear his serious opposition to the basic spirit of the US Constitution. It required a private interview between its chairman, Sam Ervin and the US President to discuss the matter. Nixon gave his OK lymphone immediately after reception of the message.

However, the next day, July 13, Ziegler, the White House spokesman announced that sick with pneumonia his boss had gone to Besda Hospital of the Navy. It was the right moment indeed!

HUONG NAM

DRVN—PPR

Furthering the friendship

ACCORDING to *VNA*, a delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and DRVN Government led by Pham Van Dong, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and Prime Minister of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, paid an official visit to the Polish People's Republic from July 23 to 28, 1973.

Edward Gierek, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, and Henryk Jablowski, Political Bureau member of the PUWP CC and President of the Council of State received, and had a cordial talk with, Prime Minister Pham Van Dong.

The DRVN delegation was warmly welcome by the Polish people. The delegation's visit to Poland is a new manifestation of the fraternal friendship which has long bound the Vietnamese people with the Polish people.

During the visit to the Polish People's Republic of the delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to the Polish People's Republic, talks were hold between Pham Van Dong, Political Bureau member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and Premier of the DRVN Government, and Piotr Jaroszewicz, Political Bureau member of the Polish United Workers' Party Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic.

The Viet Nam - Poland meetings and talks took place in an atmosphere of cordiality, fraternal solidarity and mutual understanding. During the talks, questions relating to the further strengthening of the friendship and co-operation between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Polish People's Republic, the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam and topical international issues of mutual concern, were discussed.

The Polish side informed the Vietnamese delegation of the carrying out of the program for economic and social development of Poland adopted at the 6th Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party and the successful implementation of the task under the five-year plan.

The Vietnamese delegation expressed its admiration and welcome to the achievements which the Polish people had recorded in their socialist construction thanks to the creative efforts of the Polish labouring masses, under the leadership of the Polish United Workers' Party and the close co-operation, based on the principles of proletarian internationalism, with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. Poland has now become a socialist country endowed with developed economy and advanced culture and science. The Polish people's living standard has not ceased to improve.

The Vietnamese side informed the Polish side of the situation in Viet Nam since the signing of the Paris Agreement and the measures adopted in the reconstruction of the country as well as the plans for the continued development of socialist construction in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The Polish side expressed to the Vietnamese delegation the most profound admiration of the Polish people for the heroic struggle for freedom and national independence of the Vietnamese people who had added glorious pages to the history of the anti-imperialist struggle and had won brilliant victories, as shown in the conclusion of the Paris Agreement.

The Vietnamese side reaffirmed the unswerving stand of the DRVN Government and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam which consists in strictly and scrupulously implementing the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué, and demanding that the US and the Saigon administration do the same.

The Polish side fully supported this stand of the DRVN Government and the RSVN PRG as well as the PRG's June 28, 1973 proposal made in conformity with the Paris Agreement with a view to the prompt settlement of the internal affairs of South Viet Nam by peaceful and democratic means in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord.

The Polish side wished the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the DRVN Government and the Vietnamese people quick reconstruction of their war-ravaged country, and assured them that, together with the other socialist countries, Poland would continue its full and all-sided support for the Vietnamese people in their struggle to preserve and consolidate lasting peace, successfully build socialism in the North and develop the South along the path of peace, independence, democracy and neutrality in the advance to the peaceful reunification of Viet Nam.

Poland will do its best to develop in every field its fine relations with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the RSVN PRG, the only genuine representative of the Vietnamese people in the South.

World youth and their enthusiastic support for Viet Nam

THE sum collected by young people all over the world for the construction of the Nguyen Van Troi Hospital in Hanoi has totalled 360,000 US dollars, according to the Preparatory Committee for the 10th World Youth and Students Festival in Berlin.

Millions of Komsomol members in the **Soviet Union** have been active in the *Soviet Youth support Young Generations of Viet Nam* movement, whose purpose is to raise funds through voluntary work — for the building of a young pioneers' palace and a school in Hanoi. Young **Poles** have also gathered 2.5 million zlotis. Students of the vocational school of Balska Stianica alone have put in hundreds of voluntary work-hours for Viet Nam.

A major watchword for the youth of **Hungary** now is to give Viet Nam all possible assistance to heal her wounds of war. They are working to earn money to help build for Viet Nam a vocational school with an enrolment of 1,000. In **Mongolia**, recently, a sum of 200,000 tugriks was collected for Viet Nam through voluntary work by 49,000 young people. Besides, there have been 100,000 marks from **Finland**, 110,000 kr from **Denmark** (the sum is expected to go up to 125,000 kr), and 22,000 fr from **Belgium**.

A no less stirring movement is taking place in **Egyptian** factories and farms from Aswan to Alexandria. In **Iraq**, youths have contributed 1,000 dollars and printed tens of thousands of postcards representing Hero Nguyen Van Troi fearlessly facing the firing squad.

In **Colombia**, young people are zealously pushing up drives which urge each citizen to help Viet Nam with "half a kilo of coffee," or with "one peso," or even with his own "blood." Besides, construction workers have collected 10,000 bags of ciment for the re-construction of Hanoi.

According to J. Schwartz, Public Relations Secretary of the US Young Workers Liberation League youths of the **USA** have raised by now, 50,000 dollars for the Nguyen Van Troi Hospital.

Young people in the **GDR** — the site of the 10th Festival, and where for long the support of Viet Nam had become "the cause of the heart, a state policy" — have made a great contribution among others to this world-wide support movement of 13 million marks, some 15,000 bicycles, 3,000 electrical appliances, 35,000 tons of kalium, and even a ship.

My Lai... Uyryamu... Northern Ireland

IN March 1968, the US imperialists committed the My Lai massacre. This event aroused deep emotion and indignation among the peoples in the world.

But there was not only one My Lai in South Viet Nam and there have been My Lais not only in South Viet Nam.

On December 16, 1972, the Portuguese colonialists' planes heavily bombed and strafed the remote village of Uyryamu in Tete province, Mozambique, completely obliterating it. Over 400 civilians, mostly women and children were savagely slaughtered from the air. Besides the colonialist troops indulged in a saturnalia of carnage, disembowelling, decapitating and burning alive many people, then throwing their bodies into the Niantawatawa river. For instance, they killed Mrs Vaina, then smashed the head of her nine-month old baby ; the disembowelled Mrs Zostinia who was with child, plucked out the foetus, then burned them all.

Uyryamu is an "African My Lai" as the world's peoples described it. The July 13, 1973 Frelimo statement pointed out that this "African My Lai" was not an isolated crime of the Portuguese colonialists aimed at quenching the Mozambique people's vigorous struggle for national independence.

The colonialists have committed "African My Lais" not only in Mozambique, but also in Kitbisi in Angola.

In the Irish sea area, an other My Lai has been taking place. In the past few weeks, some 25,000 British colonialist troops have been mustered into a terror campaign in Belfast and other cities in Northern Ireland in a bid to suppress the Irish people's movement for national independence and freedom. The British rulers misrepresent it as a religious conflict, trying to obscure the fact that the British imperialists have turned Northern Ireland into a neo-colony of theirs. The current terror in Northern Ireland is not different from the atrocities of the US imperialists in South Viet Nam and those of the Portuguese colonialists in Mozambique, Angola and other places.

Obviously while imperialism and colonialism, old or new is heading for ruin, genocide is its main policy, no matter it is US imperialism, British neo-colonialism or Portuguese old-type colonialism. Imperialism and colonialism goes hand in hand with massacre and terror and genocide against the colonial people and all small nations daring to resist it.

However, the history of struggle of all oppressed people in the past many years has proved that cruelty and barbarity cannot break the will to fight for liberation of all nations, and that extreme brutality only portends the throes of death of imperialism and colonialism. It has the only effect of accelerating its total collapse.

As a former casualty of this genocide, the South Vietnamese people together with the world's progressives strongly condemn the horrors of the Portuguese colonialists in Mozambique and Angola and the British colonialists in Northern Ireland.

They are determined to support the patriotic effort of the peoples of Mozambique and Angola and the battle for fundamental national rights of the Irish people till total victory.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION